

CONSTITUTION

OF THE



Philadelphia Society

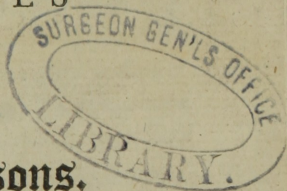
FOR ALLEVIATING

THE

MISERIES

OF

Public Prisons.



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PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY JOSEPH CRUKSHANK.

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1806.



# Constitution.

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WHEN we consider that the obligations of benevolence, which are founded on the precepts and examples of the Author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow Creatures: and when we reflect upon the miseries which penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments and guilt (the usual attendants of Prisons) involve with them; it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of Mankind, who are the subjects of those miseries.—By the aid of humanity, their undue and illegal Sufferings may be prevented, the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together, under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken: and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested as may, instead of continuing habits of vice, be-

WITHDRAWN FOR EXCHANGE  
N.L.M. REINSTATED N.L.M.



come the means of restoring our fellow Creatures to virtue and happiness.—From a conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles, the Subscribers have Associated themselves under the Title of “*The PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY, for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.*”

For effecting these Purposes they have adopted the following CONSTITUTION,

### ARTICLE 1.

THE Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, an Electing Committee of ten, and an Acting Committee, all of whom except the Acting Committee, shall be chosen annually, by ballot, on the second Second-day, called Monday, in the Month called January.

### ARTICLE II.

THE President, and in his absence one of the Vice Presidents, shall preside in all meetings and shall subscribe all public Acts of the Society.—The President, or in his absence either of the Vice Presidents, shall moreover have the power of calling a special meeting of the Society whenever he shall judge proper. A special meeting shall like-

wise be called at any time when six members of the Society shall concur in requesting it.

### ARTICLE III.

THE Secretaries shall keep fair Records of the proceedings of the Society, and shall correspond with such persons and societies, as may be judged necessary to promote the views and objects of the Institution.

### ARTICLE IV.

THE Treasurer, shall keep all monies and securities belonging to the Society, and shall pay all Orders of the Society, or Acting Committee, Signed by the President or one of the Vice Presidents, which Orders shall be his Vouchers for his expenditures. He shall before he enters upon his office, give a Bond of not less than two hundred pounds, for the faithful discharge of the duties of it.

### ARTICLE V.

THE Electing Committee shall have the sole power of admitting new members ; two thirds of them shall be a quorum for this purpose, and the concurrence of a majority of them by ballot, when met, shall be necessary for the admission of

a member. No member shall be admitted who has not been proposed at a previous meeting of the Society; nor shall an Election for a member take place, in less than one month after the time of his being proposed.

## ARTICLE VI.

THE Acting Committee shall consist of the President, two Vice Presidents, and six other members, three of whom to go off at the meetings, in the Months called January and July. They shall visit the Prisons, at least once a Month, enquire into the circumstances of the Prisoners, and report such abuses as they shall discover, to the proper Officers appointed to remedy them. They shall examine the influence of confinement or punishment upon the morals of the Prisoners. They may draw upon the Treasurer, for such sums of money as may be necessary. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, to be read at every Quarterly Meeting of the Society.

## ARTICLE VII.

EVERY member upon his Admission shall subscribe the Constitution of the Society, and contribute seven Shillings and six pence annually, towards defraying its contingent expences:—If he



neglect to pay the same for more than two Years, he shall upon due notice being given him of the delinquency cease to be a member.

### ARTICLE VIII.

THE Society shall meet on the second, Second day, called Monday, in the Months called January, April, July, and October, at such place as shall be agreed to by a majority of the Society.

### ARTICLE IX.

No Law or regulation shall contradict any part of the Constitution of the Society, nor shall any Law or alteration of the Constitution be made without it be proposed at a previous meeting. All questions shall be decided, where there is a division by a majority of votes, in those where the Society is equally divided, the presiding Officer shall have a casting vote.

# OFFICERS FOR 1806.

## PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM WHITE, D. D.

## VICE PRESIDENTS.

WILLIAM ROGERS, D. D.

THOMAS WISTAR.

## SECRETARIES.

CALEB CRESSON, Junr.

WILLIAM M'ILHENNEY, Junr.

## TREASURER.

ISRAEL W. MORRIS.

## ELECTING COMMITTEE.

Samuel P. Griffitts,	Zachariah Poulson,
Thomas Wistar,	Thomas Harrison,
William M'Ilhenney,	Isaac Parrish,
Benjamin Thaw,	Jacob Shoemaker,
Israel W. Morris,	Thomas Bradford, Junr.



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